

## HURRICANE IN THE PACIFIC.

Haapai Visited by Destruction—Missionary Work On the Group.

BAHAM, Lihaka, Haapai, Feb. 5, 1896.

To the Editors:

Thinking a short account of the hurricane with which we have just been visited and of the work of the Elders in this part of the vicarage would be interesting to the readers of the News, I forward the following for publication.

On December 20, 1895, Elders Alfred M. Durham, Alfred A. Eklund and Thomas D. Adams returned from the island of Tangatutu where the latter two had gone to spend Christmas, and Elder Durham had accompanied them back to make a visit through the Haapai group. We were situated at this village on the evening of January 21, 1896, when about 8 o'clock a gale of wind began to blow from the northwest, which increased greatly, and in a short time a regular hurricane was sweeping things before it. The house in which we were located, did considerable racking from side to side, but the roof floated on a rock, it fell out. The hurricane had not been upon us long, when a loud knock was heard at the door, and upon opening, we found a family, of whom whose house had fallen in, and they had come to seek shelter, which we freely gave them. By this time the wind was something terrible, and upon looking out we could see a number of houses near by which had fallen, and the ground was literally covered with cornucopious and fallen trees. The wind kept up until 11 o'clock that night, when it began to abate a little, and we decided to go over to Brother James E. Gillet's place and see how he and family had weathered the storm. We were pleased to find upon our arrival, that all was well with them, and as their house was much safer than ours we thought it best to spend the remainder of the night with them, so at 1 o'clock p.m. all retired to rest.

The wind had nearly ceased when we arose on the morning of the 22d, and the night that our eyes upon entering from the house was something terrible. More than half of the native houses had fallen, and the ground was thickly covered with uprooted trees, fruit, cornucopious, etc. From this sight of destruction we went down on the sea beach to see what had become of all the boats which were anchored in the harbor the night previous. We were not much surprised to see the West Australian, a Norwegian, and the Woonung, a German barque, piled high on the reefs. Both were damaged and greatly damaged. Later in the day it was our privilege to visit these wrecked vessels, where we learned that no lives were lost, but the vessels will likely be abandoned, as any attempt to repair them would only be a waste of money.

When the sun came up with its burning heat, nearly every vestige of vegetation became withered and dead, as though a fire had swept over the entire island. This was caused by the salt water which was blown in from the sea. Most all the native food, such as yam, bread fruit, bananas and oranges are a total failure, which will cause this people to know what want is for some time to come. As yet I have heard of no lives being lost, and the damage done to property is not estimated, but it will be quite heavy.

MISSIONARY LABOR.

The first Elders of the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints landed on this island in June 1895, and since that time twelve converts have been made, five of which have been removed to Samoa, can have died and the rest are in such a scattered condition that it is difficult to organize them into a branch.

There are, at the present time, four Elders laboring on this group, and we have succeeded in visiting some seven of the sixteen islands, which are isolated, and meetings have been held on all but one. We have thus far reached, we are anxious to visit as many more as possible, so that all may have the privilege of embracing and receiving the Gospel. We find the people very slow to give heed to the Gospel message, which we are striving to spread among them; but we realize that it does not repent when called upon to do so by the Elders, God will visit them with it. After your testimony through the testimony of the scriptures, that shall cause groanings in the midst of her, and men shall fall on the ground, and not be able to stand; and also through the testimony of the voice of thunderings, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

We do not feel to get discouraged in our labors, but will press on, striving to see the seed of righteousness, to yield and water the same, and wait for God to give the increase. Ever praying for the welfare of Zion, and for the work of the Gospel of Christ, I am your brother in the Gospel of Christ.

THOMAS D. ADAMS.

### IN LOVE WITH UTAH.

A Former Visitor Testifies to Its Charm.

To the Editors:

Dear Sir:—Although I have not written you for some time, I have, thanks to your country, been in receipt of your paper, and thus have been kept posted pretty well on Utah matters. Your brother Frank is now Senator, and I congratulate not only yourself and him, but also the last Star of the Union, which for wisdom, wealth, wit, law, clean politics, poetry and the like arts, will shine more brightly and more fully and effectively, than any of her sister luminaries, whose active brilliancy has attracted vision from all nations to sell on and invest brain and brawn in building up another nation, whose straggled banner floats over thousands of schools, whose buildings and methods of teaching not only can, but do hold their own with any in the wide, wide world.

The people of the United States, it has often been remarked, are eminently practical, and so much so that poetry and art are but in embryo in their mind. One important feature among other matters that hereby impressed itself upon me during my first week in Utah was how beautifully and harmoniously the practical and the poetical blended. I picked up the local papers and counted them. Their columns teemed with the practical, embracing irrigation, reclamation of barren wastes, hog-raising, silk raising, mining and other solid matters of supreme importance to an island community, who were not born with silver spoons in their mouths. As I read, through my mind flashed, "The people

of the United States are eminently practical," and mentally I said to myself, "True, but the people of Utah are pre-eminently practical." Still counting and turning over page after page, to my delight the soul stirring strains of a native son, the cultured of a soul that was the recipient of the divine affluence, amongst all this practical wisdom, shone out like the star of Bethlehem. Clinging with the idea of materialism, we soon learned that the memory of Blake was not so distant as it is made to be by the materialists. Truly, the people of Utah are pre-eminently practical, and still more so, for they are not only practical, but they are also poetic.

In the Chamber, at the State convention, while debating the State constitution, every-day language, common-sense, plain, and unadorned, and with all the scientific and scientific of a Democratic, poured valley after valley of grape-wood and cauter into the midst of the opposing forces. With all the scientific and scientific of a Democratic, poured valley after valley of grape-wood and cauter into the midst of the opposing forces. With all the scientific and scientific of a Democratic, poured valley after valley of grape-wood and cauter into the midst of the opposing forces.

For such a splendid effort there must have been a more than a chance, cause, our was it long before the gigantic, picturesque snow-capped mountains, breath whose beautiful, snowy city of Salt Lake nestled behind its first and only permanent granite that they were the Pariahs of America, that the heart of the continent with a love of music, poetry and art, and the beauty of the country, which was the Pariahs of America, that the heart of the continent with a love of music, poetry and art, and the beauty of the country, which was the Pariahs of America.

It is because of the harmonious blending of the practical, the poetic, and the artistic, of heaven and earth, that Utah will prove herself the most beautiful and most interesting of all her sister states. I had not intended tripping along at such a pace, but Utah is my pet place. Yours faithfully, CHARLES FR. MORRIS.

REPORT FROM TENNESSEE.

SMITHVILLE, Tennessee, February 13th, 1896.

To the Editor:

With the view of expressing our appreciation for your many columns of news, also to give our feelings pertaining to the work we are entering, we mail the following lines:

December 21st, 1895, Elder Collamore

and I were appointed by the president of the conference to make a visit among the Saints and friends of our country. Thus far we have succeeded in visiting over seven of them, and have found everything moving quite harmoniously together. We have found a few other hungry souls for the Gospel who expressed their willingness to be baptized.

By the way, on arriving at one of our appointments, we found a large crowd assembled, with two Campbellite preachers, who kindly desired that we should not preach unless they were privileged to reply each time. We agreed, provided they will let us should hold strictly to King James' version of the Bible and nothing else. This they kindly requested, wishing to ring in the abolitionist truth, published against our people and especially that against Joseph Smith. When we declined meeting on such terms, one of the preachers took the pulpit and spoke very slanderously against us as a people, saying that we were as emeralds were admitted of their doctrine, were subject of Joseph Smith's revelations with many other like remarks, that he got through alluding to us as we were seated behind him in the pulpit, saying it would be a good opportunity to preach the Gospel to that neighborhood. We continued with the first principles. Prejudice was running extremely high, but before we had concluded our first speech the tide was turning, and all eyes were fixed upon us, and a great sea was opened to hear our principles.

You can rest assured that it was not long before they were convinced that we were not assassins of the doctrine set up by the instrument in God's hand in this dispensation, demonstrating by the fruits of our mission. We were welcomed in the way of kings, rulers, and men of prominence who have been ranked from infancy in the trade of the country, who invited us to their homes, and we were treated with the greatest hospitality. Our opponent was fairly outside, and his reports completely vanquished. The contest occupied six hours, and during this time we were each party committing an hour each. The preacher declared the third meeting by saying, "I will be here tomorrow, Sunday, and let me hear from you." The weather being very warm, blundered many from hearing. It remains but to wait, making it very unpleasant for travel.

We discover that the ministers of Satanism are doing much of their power to pervert the efforts of our cause, and many others seem to be doing to recruit themselves to their front view. I have not the cause was that the true light is shining among them, and they are ashamed of their doctrine and methods, invented by the impurity of man.

I have been in the work over two years; everything has gone pleasantly thus far, and Elder Collamore who has experienced four months in the work, feels to render all the day long. We feel to close by saying we know this to be the work of God, that it will save through a few of these wet days with the friends of the Church and present with Mr. John King who has lately proved himself a friend to the Elders. A part of his family are members of the Church, and we hope to meet the remainder looking more seriously after their eternal welfare. They are not enjoying good health, as a large of sickness has descended upon his daughter for several months.

With a fervent prayer that Zion may arise and prosper, we remain your brethren,

A. L. COLLAMORE.

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